

• Abroad •

Oxford, England. There is a revival among English university students of the sort of pacifism and emotional radicalism that in the '30s produced the famous "Oxford Pledge" against fighting "for King or country." Students have been prominent in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the British version of the Cousins-Pauling operation, especially in its offshoot, the Direct Action Committee, which stages sitdowns and marches in deliberate defiance of the law, in order to get members arrested and publicized. It was the Oxford University Labor Club that first took up Patrick van Rensburg's plan for a boycott of South African products as a protest against apartheid. This boycott, now endorsed by both the British Labor Party and the trade unions' General Council, is scheduled to begin February 20th.

Eilander River, New Guinea. No recent word has come from the expedition of six young Frenchmen under Pierre-Dominique Gaisseau who set out several months ago to penetrate the southern jungles of the earth's largest island. It is feared that they may have perished according to the modes of the local inhabitants, who will doubtless soon be taking their inevitable seat in the United Nations. The New Guinea patriots have an unprejudiced fondness for human flesh, often eating their aged relatives in a layered vegetable and meat stew roasted on hot stones, and then piously burying the licked-clean bones. They sustain vigor by chewing the fresh liver of a conquered enemy, and sucking his brains through a hole drilled in his skull. Worship centers around a Cult of the Pig, in which the principal ceremony is the sacrifice of the first-born child. When a young wife is about to give birth for the first time, she is led to the side of a river by several matrons, with a parade of sows and suckling pigs in attendance. As soon as the child is born, the mother breaks its head on a rock and throws it to the sows to eat. She then takes a piglet of the same sex, and puts it to her breast to suckle. The little animal becomes sacred, to be sacrificed later in an elaborate ritual.

Marseilles, France. World publicity has been given to the approaching French A-bomb test. The careful French space rocket program is less known. From the Sahara base of Colomb-Béchar, Véronique, a precision-built rocket 25 feet long, has successfully completed many instrumented probes up to an altitude of 110 miles. A much more powerful, four-stage, 48-foot rocket, Mélanie, has been developed at the closely guarded secret base on the isle of Levant, off the Côte d'Azur (once noted for its 12 square centimeter rule on nudist bathing). Mélanie, designed for altitudes up to 185 miles with present engines, is about ready for flights, which will be monitored from a network of 12 radar and radio observation posts spread over a vast Mediterranean triangle. Within a year it is expected that new models with stepped-up power will be capable of the velocities needed to push satellites into orbit.

Moscow, U. S. S. R. *On the Beach*, the pacifist movie of mankind's annihilation by nuclear fallout, was given a special showing to a select Moscow audience as part of the eighteen-nation world premiere, but no permission has been given for its further release in the Soviet Union. Reviews in *Izvestia*, *Pravda* and *Soviet Culture* explain that the film can teach "the thoughtless, the indifferent, and those who like war as a business" how necessary it is "to preserve peace," but that "there is no need to prove to [Soviet audiences] the necessity of averting atomic war." The critics further note that *On the Beach* is infused with the pessimism of a social class about to leave the historical stage; is a device, like air raid drills, to scare the masses of imperialist nations into paying high taxes for armament; is one more proof that the world can be saved only by following the Soviet leaders.



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Tokyo, Japan. The economic boom of the '50s, in which all industrialized nations shared, conspicuously included Japan. The days when Japan was internationally known only for its shoddy ten-cent-store imitations have ended. Without ballyhoo about "a great leap forward," there has been an extraordinary advance in Japanese heavy industry and technology, which are now decades in advance of all other Asian nations. The Japanese optical and electronic industries are the technological equals of any in the world. Though the Japanese standard of living is still modest, there has also been a big lift in both the quality and quantity of consumer goods.

Paris, France. The Péchiney company—one of France's most advanced and profitable business enterprises, controlling 80 per cent of aluminum along with other chemical and metallurgical operations—has made the first application of the Gaullist principle of "Association of Labor and Capital." Péchiney distributed to its 10,000 employees a total of 35,000 shares of its stock, currently worth over \$50 per share. Acceptance of the gift was bitterly but vainly opposed by both the Communist-controlled (CGT) and Catholic (CFTC) union federations, on the ground that there is no true "community of interest" between workers and owners, and that the entire "Association" concept is a trick to smash the national union organizations.

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